

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 CAB-09 COME-00

DOT-00 EB-11 FAA-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-14 DRC-01

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FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5377

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTREAL 1511

FROM USEEL-ICAO ASSEMBLY

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOR, EAIR, ICAO

SUBJ: 21ST ICAO ASSEMBLY: AMENDMENT TO RULE 54

1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT REQUEST FRENCH DEL PASSED AGENDA ITEM 14 ON AMENDMENT ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE RULE 54 TO LEGAL COMMISSION. THUS LEGAL XPERTS WILL DISCUSS FRENCH AND CHILEAN PROPOSALS THIS ITEM ALONG WITH COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION.

2. FRENCH HAVE INFORMED USDEL THAT THEIR PROPOSAL NOT CORRECTLY TRANSLATED. (SEE A21-WP/54) PHRASE "FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS" SHOULD READ "QUESTIONS OF SUBSTANCE".

3. UK DEL (GREENE OF DTI) APPROACHED USDEL TO EXPRESS CONCERN THAT (1) MATTER NOW IN LEGALCOMMISSION WHERE ISSUES WILL BE READILY SEEN AND (2) THAT FRENCH PROPOSAL MAY HAVE TWO-STAGE INTENTION: LATTER CONCERN EXPRESSED ON FOLLOWING LINES: ONCE DISCUSSION FOCUSES ISSUE OF AMENDMENT PROCEDURE TO CONVENTION, IT COULD NATURALLY MOVE ON TO DRAFTING OF OTHER AVIATION CONVENTIONS AND SUGGEST SAME RULES OF PROCEDURE APPLY TO BOTH ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE AND DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE PROCEDURE.

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DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT BRITISH, WITHOUT FULL APPRECIATION

OF CONSEQUENCES, AGREED TO FRENCH PROPOSAL THAT 1973 ROME DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON AIR LAW USE SAME RULES OF PROCEDURE AS ASSEMBLY. (IN ASSEMBLY, ABSTENTIONS AND ABSENCES COUNT AS NEGATIVE VOTES WHEREAS IN DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCES MAJORITY IS COUNTED ON BASIS STATES PRESENT AND VOTING.) BRITISH DEL PRIOR TO AND AT ROME ADMITTED TO USDEL IN ROME THAT THEY HAD ERRED AND NOW ARE CONCERNED THAT ROME PRECEDENT BE RECOMMENDED BY LEGAL COMMISSION WHICH IS COMPOSED OF MANY, IF NOT MAJORITY, OF LAWYERS WHO PRESENT AT ROME AND THUS AWARE OF ISSUE.

4. IN LIGHT ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS, IE, REFERENCE TO LEGAL COMMISSION AND DANGER APPLICATION FRENCH FORMULA TO DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCES, USDEL RECOMMENDS AND WILL PROCEED AS FOLLOWS, UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE:

A) US WILL WORK WITH UK TO ATTEMPT TO HAVE FRENCH PROPOSAL AS CORRECTED QUICKLY ADOPTED IN LEGAL COMMISSION AS REFLECTING PROPER INTERPRETATION OF PRESENT RULES OF PROCEDURE AND INTENT OF CONVENTION. RESULT WOULD HOPEFULLY BE SINGLE RECOMMENDATION TO ASSEMBLY PLENARY WITH NO REFERENCE TO APPLICATION AT DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCES.

B) SHOULD IT APPEAR THAT EITHER COUNCIL FORMULATION ON CHILEAN PROPOSAL GAINING ACCEPTANCE, DEL WILL CONSIDER PUTTING US DRAFT INTO HOPPER IN EFFORT TO HAVE ALL SUBMITTED BACK TO COUNCIL. UKDEL CONCURS THIS TACTIC AND HAS INDICATED IT WILL ACTIVELY SUPPORT.

C) SHOULD FRENCH PROPOSAL FAIL IN LEGAL COMMISSION BY LARGE MARGIN AND REFERRAL TO COUNCIL RECEIVE NO SUPPORT, DEL WILL GO ALONG WITH MAJORITY AND MAKE NO FURTHER ATTEMPT WHEN LEGAL COMMISSION SENDS RECOMMENDATION TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO PRESS FOR REFERRAL TO COUNCIL. THIS LATTER TACTIC TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THAT FURTHER DISCUSSION OF ISSUE MAY OPEN POSSIBILITY OF CONCERN EXPRESSED PARA. 3 ABOVE AND THAT BEST TACTIC WOULD BE TO GET ITEM ROLLING AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, AIR ROUTES, AIR SCHEDULES, AIR FARES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MONTRE01511
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740272-0277
From: MONTREAL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740912/aaaaajon.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 21ST ICAO ASSEMBLY: AMENDMENT TO RULE 54
TAGS: PGOV, EAIR, ICAO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005